



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FINAL FIRE DAMAGED COUNTY PARK TO REOPEN** *El Capitan Open Space Preserve in Lakeside Opens May 20*

El Capitan County Open Space Preserve, the final park that remained closed due to the wildfires in 2003, is reopening to the public on May 20.

More than 15,000 acres of County parkland were burned in the fires, causing damage to 23 parks and long-term closure to eleven of the parks. Over the past two years, the \$15 million worth of damage to parks and trails county-wide have been repaired. Out of these, El Capitan Preserve's trail system was one of the most damaged. Its 7-mile path, which is part of the Trans-County Trail, was completely wiped out from erosion caused by the fire and heavy rains.

"The parks and trails could not have been restored so quickly without the hard work of the staff and volunteers," said Renée Bahl, County Parks and Recreation Director. "We also received tremendous support from our partnerships with other agencies and organizations."

Grant support, as well as thousands of hours of work from park staff and volunteers, allowed the parks to not only be restored, but also improved. County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation employed better rebuilding methods and tools in the process such as green building techniques and using fire resistant and low maintenance materials.

For more information about County parks, please visit [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org).

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